



State of Tennessee

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 137

By Representatives Lundberg, Campbell, Shipley, Hurley

A RESOLUTION commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Bristol Motor Speedway.

WHEREAS, first opened in 1961, the Bristol International Speedway, as it was first known, was designed and built by Bristol businessmen Carl Moore, Larry Carrier, and R. G. Pope on dairy farmland on Highway 11 between Bristol and Bluff City/Piney Flats; and

WHEREAS, the half-mile track hosted its first NASCAR race on July 30, 1961. At the time of its grand opening, the track had a seating capacity of 18,000; and

WHEREAS, between 1976 and 1985, the track had five different owners, including Lanny Hester and Gary Baker, who installed lights at the track and made possible Bristol's first night race, the Volunteer 500 held on August 26, 1978, which was won by Cale Yarborough in front of a crowd of 30,000; and

WHEREAS, Larry Carrier again took ownership in 1985 and, by 1990, had expanded the seating capacity to 58,000, a number which had grown to 71,000 by the time he sold the race track to Bruton Smith and Speedway Motorsports on January 22, 1996; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 1996, the track's name was changed to Bristol Motor Speedway and, by the end of that year, the seating capacity had been increased to 86,000. By August of 1998, the track had seating for 131,000 and 100 skyboxes; and

WHEREAS, March of 2000 saw the completion of the Kulwicki Terrace and Kulwicki Tower, at which time the track seated 147,000; and

WHEREAS, Bristol Motor Speedway's entire backstretch was demolished on August 26, 2002, to make way for a new grandstand which would increase the seating capacity to 155,000 and feature fifty-two luxury skyboxes. It was in August of 2005 that the final thirty-five luxury suites were completed; and

WHEREAS, on the occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary, the Bristol Motor Speedway stands as one of the three largest permanent-seat sporting facilities in the United States and remains a fan favorite. The speedway attracts more than one million visitors each year and is responsible for more than \$400 million in economic impact in the Northeast Tennessee region; and

WHEREAS, over the past fourteen years, the owners and management of Bristol Motor Speedway have donated more than \$6 million to area charities; and

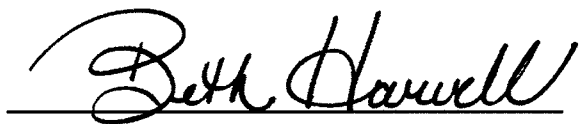
WHEREAS, for the past fifty years, Bristol Motor Speedway has nestled in the hills of East Tennessee, providing thousands upon thousands of hours of entertainment to automobile racing fans, and it is wholly fitting that we recognize this auspicious occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Bristol Motor Speedway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: MAY 18, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Beth Harwell", written over a horizontal line.

BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES